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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

March 22, 2012

RE: HB 4718

To Health Policy Committee Chair Haines, and Health Policy Committee members:

Hello, my name is Jill Moore. On behalf of the Snyder administration, we would like to thank the members of the Health Policy Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony and to offer our support of the pending substitute for HB 4718, "the second pair of hands" bill. I am the Dental Sealant Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Oral Health Program and I am also a Registered Dental Hygienist. At the MDCH, Oral Health Program, I manage the SEAL! Michigan Program. SEAL! Michigan is a school-based dental sealant program that provides free dental sealants to students in the first, second, sixth, and seventh grades. The Oral Health Program currently funds nine grantees around the state and all SEAL! Michigan grantees utilize registered dental hygienists to place the dental sealants. All the hygienists operate in approved PA 161 programs according to the PA 161 of 2005 law. The schools that are targeted for SEAL! Michigan services are schools that have over 50% of their students participating in the free and reduced lunch program, ensuring the program targets students that are most in need.

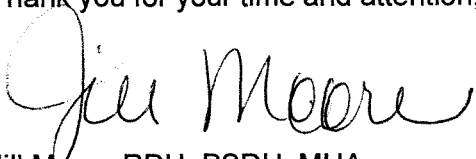
The SEAL! Michigan program is important because sealants are an evidenced based procedure that prevents dental decay. Dental decay is one of the single most common childhood diseases second only to the common cold. Dental decay is responsible for undesirable aspects that can affect a person's life in numerous ways. It is responsible for an estimated 51 million school hours lost nationally each year. However, through education, access to fluoride and dental sealants, dental decay can easily be prevented.

Dental sealants are placed on the biting surface of primary and permanent molar teeth to seal out decay causing bacteria. Research supports that sealants are 100% effective in preventing dental decay when they retain on the teeth. Research also suggests that sealants that are placed using the four-handed technique have higher retention rates<sup>1</sup>. This is because the single most important aspect of placing a sealant that will be retained is to be able to achieve and retain a dry field throughout the process. Although one person can place a dental sealant, it is much simpler to place with the four-handed technique. While placing a sealant with two-hands the hygienist will need to dedicate one hand to hold the high speed vacuum which is the evacuation system to keep the field dry at the same time that they need to go through the rest of the procedure with their other hand. The steps of placement include isolating the tooth, placing etch on the tooth, rinsing the etch off and immediately completely drying the tooth, placing the sealant material and using the curing light to harden it in place. This process is repeated in four different quadrants of the mouth. As you can see, this is a lot for one hand to do. Not only is using the four handed procedure simpler, it is also much more efficient; providers will be able to treat more patients in a day if they are able to increase their placement time. Allowing four-hands in the procedure and placement of sealants is even more beneficial with children who may be active in the chair, have small mouths or overactive salivary glands because these characteristics further complicate the procedure.

The SEAL! Michigan program began in 2007 and provides thousands of sealants to children in Michigan annually at no cost to families as well as oral health education and fluoride varnish. In Fiscal Year 2010, the program placed 11,426 sealants and in Fiscal Year 2011, 14,448 sealants were placed. The SEAL! Michigan program is funded through the CDC and receives Title V Funds annually. The Oral Health Program also received support from Delta Dental Plan of Michigan to fund additional SEAL! Michigan grantees for Fiscal Year 2012. SEAL! Michigan is one of five states that received recognition as a best practice by the

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Healthy People 2020 identify the goal of 28.1% of first molars and 21.9% of second molars to have sealants placed. Currently, according to the Count Your Smiles Survey of third graders, Michigan is at 26.4%. Healthy People 2020 also have identified a goal of 1.5% of primary—or baby—teeth on 3-5 year olds to receive dental sealants. The challenges of placing dental sealants on a child of this age and size will most likely require the use of a four-handed technique. With the amount of federal and state funding that is supporting school-based sealant programs, the performance measurements that have to be met with school-based sealant programs, the Administration supports the pending substitute for the second pair of hands bill (HB 4718) so that the dental sealants placed by SEAL! Michigan grantees have an even better chance of retention on the teeth to prevent dental decay.

Thank you for your time and attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

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<sup>i</sup> Griffin SO, Jones K, Gray SK, Malvitz DM, Gooch BF. (2008). Exploring four-handed delivery and retention of resin-based sealants. *Journal of the American Dental Association* 139(3):281–289.